

APPENDIX B

CALFED COORDINATION ROLE IN THE NORTH DELTA

Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed Alliance Coordination

Purpose

To support communication, partnership, and integration of the numerous ongoing and proposed projects in the Mokelumne and Cosumnes watersheds.

Project Description

CALFED has teamed with the San Joaquin County Council of Governments (SJCOG), the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), and other interested parties to form the Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed Alliance (MCWA), building on SJCOG and SAFCA efforts to coordinate and integrate projects being conducted in the watersheds. Ongoing and planned projects involve fish passage improvements, habitat restoration and preservation, flood control, research and monitoring, and watershed management. The intent of MCWA is to provide a mechanism for coordinating and integrating activities to avoid conflicts between projects and to take advantage of opportunities for synergy between projects so that the overall goal of a healthier watershed can best be achieved.

The MCWA's area of focus is the Mokelumne and Consumnes watersheds. Also included are the other tributaries of each river and adjacent lands, such as the Morrison Creek system including Beach-Stone Lakes and the Point Pleasant area. The MCWA will function as a coordinator and information clearinghouse for ongoing and future projects in this area.

Activities of the MCWA include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Facilitating communication.** The MCWA provides a forum for agencies to describe and summarize the status of individual projects and programs and identify areas of common interest. Meetings include affected stakeholders and other interested parties. CALFED coordinates and provides administrative support for these meetings.
- **Identifying conflicts.** The MCWA provides a forum for identifying, discussing, and developing recommendations for resolution of conflicts.
- **Addressing regulatory concerns.** The MCWA acts as a clearinghouse to keep regulatory agencies informed of all projects being planned or implemented in the watersheds and allows their concerns to be integrated into project planning.
- **Optimizing resources.** The MCWA convenes focused subgroups to share information and data on, for example, hydraulic modeling and geographic information systems, outreach and stakeholder identification, and web page development.

- **Identifying funding opportunities.** Opportunities to obtain state and federal funding are significantly enhanced if proposed projects are multipurpose and have broad support of member agencies.
- **Encouraging partnerships and improving integration.** The MCWA provides a forum for potential partnerships to develop.
- **Developing and managing a stakeholder database.** The MCWA develops and regularly updates a master database of stakeholders and a Geographic Information System (GIS) map of resources and general land uses.
- **Assisting and facilitating stakeholder outreach and education.** The MCWA team develops a database of existing projects in the watershed, contacts watershed project managers on a monthly basis to collect information about each of the projects, and develops and distributes a quarterly newsletter.
- **Developing and managing a web page.** The MCWA develops and manages a web page to disseminate information (www.mcwatershed.org).
- **Provide assessment reports.** The MCWA periodically assesses how the program is functioning and provides assessment reports identifying any deficiencies and steps to be taken to address them.

The ongoing and proposed projects in the Mokelumne and Cosumnes watersheds are shown in the following table.

Ongoing and Proposed Projects in the Mokelumne and Cosumnes Watersheds

Projects	Sponsors	Activities
The Lower Mokelumne River Restoration Project	Woodbridge Irrigation District and the City of Lodi	Remove barriers to anadromous fish migration, support riparian restoration efforts, minimize ecological stressors, and restore spawning grounds.
The Cosumnes River Task Force	Lower Cosumnes Resource Conservation District (RCD), Sloughhouse RCD, Florin RCD, and Amador RCD	Develop a long-term strategy to encourage restoration of watershed health and improve flood management.
Joint Settlement Agreement for the Mokelumne River	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD)	Provide reasonable protection to and enhancement over current conditions for the anadromous fishery and ecosystem of the lower Mokelumne River, including flow enhancement, riparian restoration, aquatic habitat restoration, reduction/eradication of invasive non-native vegetation from riparian corridors, restoration of natural flows of sediment and large woody debris, and biological monitoring.
The Lower Cosumnes River Feasibility Study	U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Assess, identify, and implement ecological restoration and non-traditional flood damage reduction alternatives.
The Mokelumne River Feasibility Study	USACE and EBMUD	Assess, identify, and implement ecological restoration and non-traditional flood damage reduction alternatives. Mimic natural flow regimes through innovative reservoir management.
The Lower Mokelumne River Stewardship Program	San Joaquin RCD	Prepare a watershed stewardship plan and implement priority watershed stewardship efforts in the lower Mokelumne River watershed from Camanche Dam to the Cosumnes River. Implement an Environmental Farm Plan encouraging voluntary agricultural assessment and reduction of non-point source pollutants and conduct biological monitoring.

San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (HCP) Program	San Joaquin Council of Governments	Provide mitigation, enhancement, and compensation for development resulting in conversion of open spaces to non-open space uses. This plan mitigates impacts on threatened, endangered, and other special-status species in San Joaquin County through habitat protection and restoration. Habitat projects may include acquisition of conservation easements on riparian areas along Lower Mokelumne.
The Cosumnes Consortium Research and Monitoring Program	University of California, Davis, Center for Integrated Watershed Science and Management	Conduct fluviogeomorphic-ecological studies of the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers.
The Cosumnes River Preserve	TNC, DFG, California State Lands Commission, Department of Water Resources, Ducks Unlimited, Sacramento County, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and private landowners	Protect and restore critical habitats along the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers and support natural resource-sensitive agricultural practices.
Protection of the Point Pleasant Area and Portions of the Franklin Pond Area	Sacramento County	Conceptual plan for improvements to increase flood protection for Point Pleasant and some of the Franklin Pond residents and to protect important public facilities and institutions in the Franklin Pond area. Construction of the improvements will increase water levels in the North Delta area during peak floods. As a result, implementation is on hold pending identification of feasible mitigation measures.
CALFED North Delta Investigation	CALFED	Team of stakeholders assembled to formulate a project that provides ecosystem restoration, improved through-Delta conveyance, and flood control in the north Delta region.
South Sacramento Stream Group Project	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, USACE, Reclamation Board (proposed sponsor)	Address flood risks along creeks in urban South Sacramento through a combination of flood control alternatives. The proposed project also includes recreational amenities and an environmental restoration component in the Sacramento County Regional Treatment Plant bufferlands.

Implementing Agencies

Administrative lead: CALFED

Entities pledging financial support or in-kind services include CALFED; City of Lodi; EBMUD; Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sacramento County; the Nature Conservancy; SAFCA; Sacramento County; San Joaquin County Council of Governments; San Joaquin County RCD; UC Davis Center for Integrated Watershed Science and Management; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District; and Woodbridge Irrigation District.

Required Resources

Unknown at this time.

Coordination

This action is entirely a coordination action. CALFED Bay-Delta Program staff from the Lower Sacramento River, North Delta Region Bundle implementation team will provide administrative and facilitation support to the Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed Alliance, as described above and shown in Figure 2.

Schedule

MCWA coordination is ongoing.